# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4716
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the number of psychiatric patients have been continuously increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the number of patients with mental disorder during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to look into the causes of mental disorders; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the concrete steps being taken by the Government for the prevention of mental disorders?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression world wide. The year wise data on persons suffering from mental disorders is not available. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population have major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders.

(c ) The Government runs various psychiatric institutes all over the country, which imparts training to specialists as well as carry out research activities into the various aspects of mental illness. Various institutions such as Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, Departments of Psychiatry in all the medical colleges have initiated research projects to understand various aspects related to causation of mental disorders. What is well known is that causation of mental disorders is multifactorial. Biological, psychiatric and socio cultural factors interact to produce mental disorders.

(d) The Government has already initiated a pilot programme for providing care for persons with mental disorders in selected districts in the country. The District Mental Health Programme is currently being implemented in 25 districts covering 20 States and Union Territories. Its aim is to identify persons suffering from various mental disorders and epilepsy and manage them at the primary health care centre and district level by trained doctors and with the active support of the families and the community in which the patient lives.